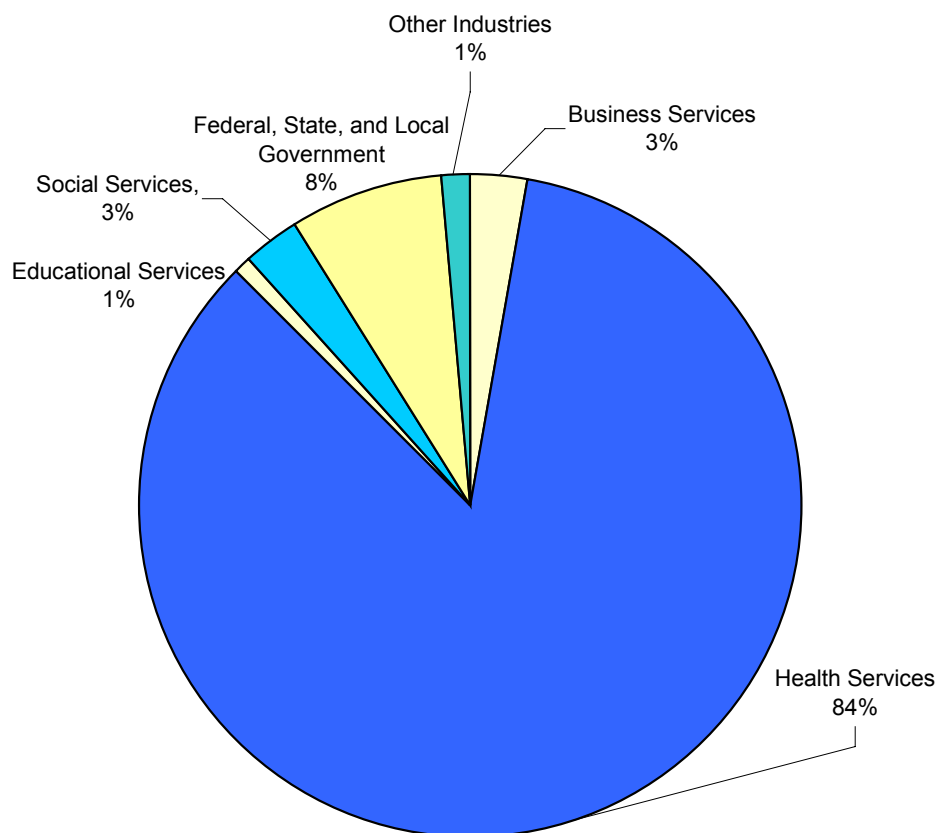


## Job Description

Licensed practical nurses (LPNs) care for the sick, injured, convalescent, and disabled under the direction of physicians and registered nurses. Most LPNs provide basic bedside care. They take vital signs such as temperature, blood pressure, pulse, and respiration. They also treat bedsores, prepare and give injections and enemas, apply dressings, give alcohol rubs and massages, apply ice packs and hot water bottles, and monitor catheters. LPNs observe patients and report adverse reactions to medications or treatments. They collect samples for testing, perform routine laboratory tests, feed patients, and record food and fluid intake and output. They help patients with bathing, dressing, and personal hygiene, keep them comfortable, and care for their emotional needs. In Missouri, with additional training and certification, they may administer prescribed medicines or start intravenous fluids. Some LPNs help deliver, care for, and feed infants.

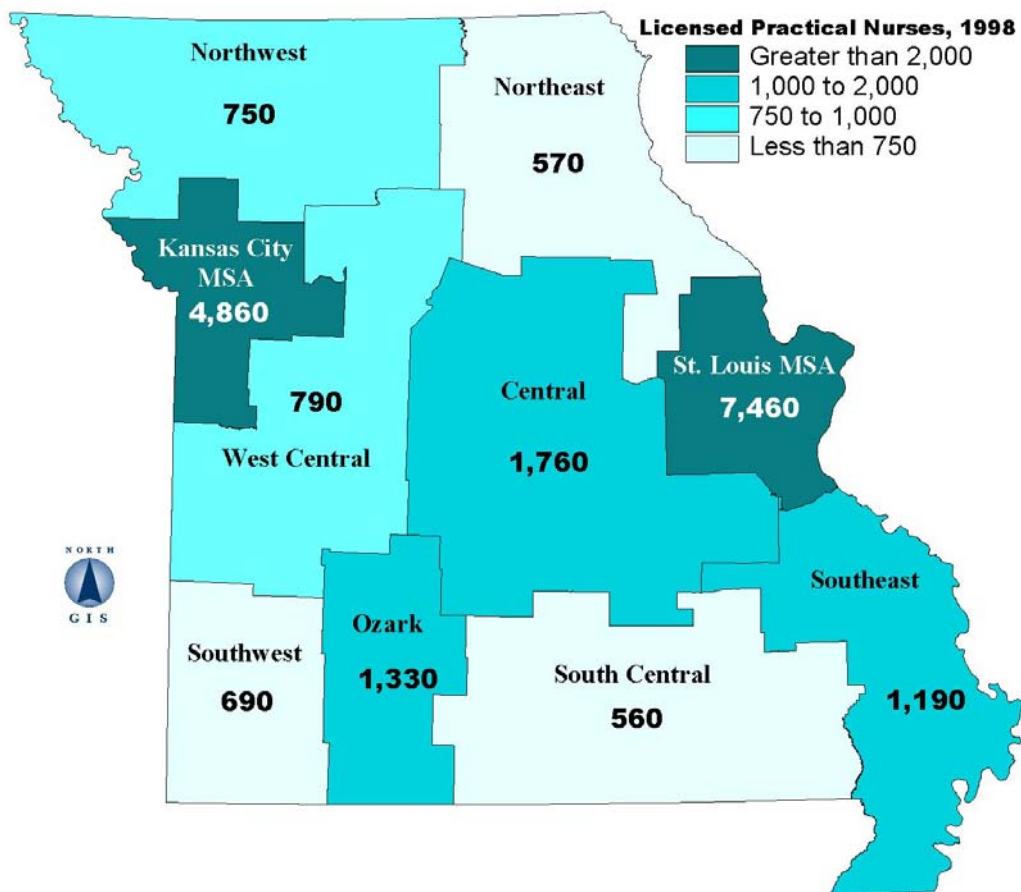
## Employment by Industry



## Employment Trends

Region	Employment		Projected Growth	Percent Change	Average Annual Openings
	1998	2008			
<b>United States</b>	<b>692,000</b>	<b>828,000</b>	<b>136,000</b>	<b>19.7%</b>	<b>284,000</b>
<b>Missouri</b>	<b>16,110</b>	<b>17,630</b>	<b>1,520</b>	<b>9.4%</b>	<b>500</b>
Northwest Region	750	810	60	8%	22
Northeast Region	570	610	40	7.0%	16
Kansas City MSA	4,860	5,070	210	4.3%	124
West Central Region	790	790	0	0%	17
Central Region	1,760	1,900	140	8.0%	52
St. Louis MSA	7,460	8,230	770	10.3%	237
Southwest Region	690	810	120	17.4%	27
Ozark Region	1,330	1,580	250	18.8%	53
South Central Region	560	610	50	8.9%	17
Southeast Region	1,190	1,250	60	5.0%	32

Source: Missouri Economic Research & Information Center, Projections Unit



## Wage Information

Region	Average Hourly Wage	Average Annual Wage
United States	\$14.15	\$29,432
Missouri	\$13.05	\$27,144
Northwest Region	\$11.20	\$23,296
Northeast Region	\$10.92	\$22,714
Kansas City MSA	\$13.75	\$28,600
West Central Region	\$11.84	\$24,627
Central Region	\$11.95	\$24,856
St. Louis MSA	\$15.14	\$31,491
Southwest Region	\$11.92	\$24,794
Ozark Region	\$11.90	\$24,752
South Central Region	\$10.62	\$22,090
Southeast Region	\$10.77	\$22,402

**The average annual salary for Licensed Practical Nurses in Missouri is \$27,144 per year, somewhat less than the national average. The occupation requires 12 months education and passage of the licensing exam.**

Source: Missouri Economic Research & Information Center, Occupational Employment Statistics Unit

## Typical Tasks

- Administers medication, orally or by injection, and notes information on patients' charts.
- Provides medical treatment and personal care to patients in private home settings.
- Takes and records patients' vital signs.
- Dresses wounds, gives enemas, douches, alcohol rubs, and massages.
- Applies compresses, ice bags, and hot water bottles.
- Observes patients and reports adverse reactions to treatment to personnel in charge.
- Bathes, dresses, and assists patients in walking and turning.
- Assembles and uses such equipment as catheters, tracheotomy tubes, and oxygen suppliers.

- Collects samples from patients for testing and performs routine laboratory tests on samples.
- Sterilizes equipment and supplies, using germicides, sterilizer, or autoclave.
- Records food and fluid intake and output.

## Skills Needed

- Active Listening
- Service Orientation
- Information Gathering
- Reading Comprehension
- Problem Identification
- Speaking
- Critical Thinking
- Monitoring
- Social Perceptiveness
- Judgment and Decision-Making

## Preparation and Licensing Requirements

### Necessary Education

- Twelve month program
- Available at vocational schools or community colleges

### Licensing

This occupation requires a license in Missouri. The Missouri State Board of Nursing gives the licensing exam to graduates of accredited nursing programs. A passing grade is required for licensure.

### Job Outlook

- Employment is expected to grow about as fast as the average for all occupations.
- The majority of job openings will come from the need to replace retiring nurses.
- Nursing homes will offer the most new jobs for LPNs as the number of aged persons in need of long-term care rises.

There will be high demand for Licensed Practical Nurses in home healthcare services. Many sophisticated procedures, which once were performed only in hospitals, are being performed in physicians' offices and clinics, including ambulatory surgicenters and emergency medical centers. This is due largely to advances in technology. As healthcare expands outside the traditional hospital setting, employment of LPNs is projected to grow much faster than average in these places while the number of hospital jobs for LPNs will decline.

## For More Information

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*Other Sources: United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, Missouri CHOICES, O\*Net.*